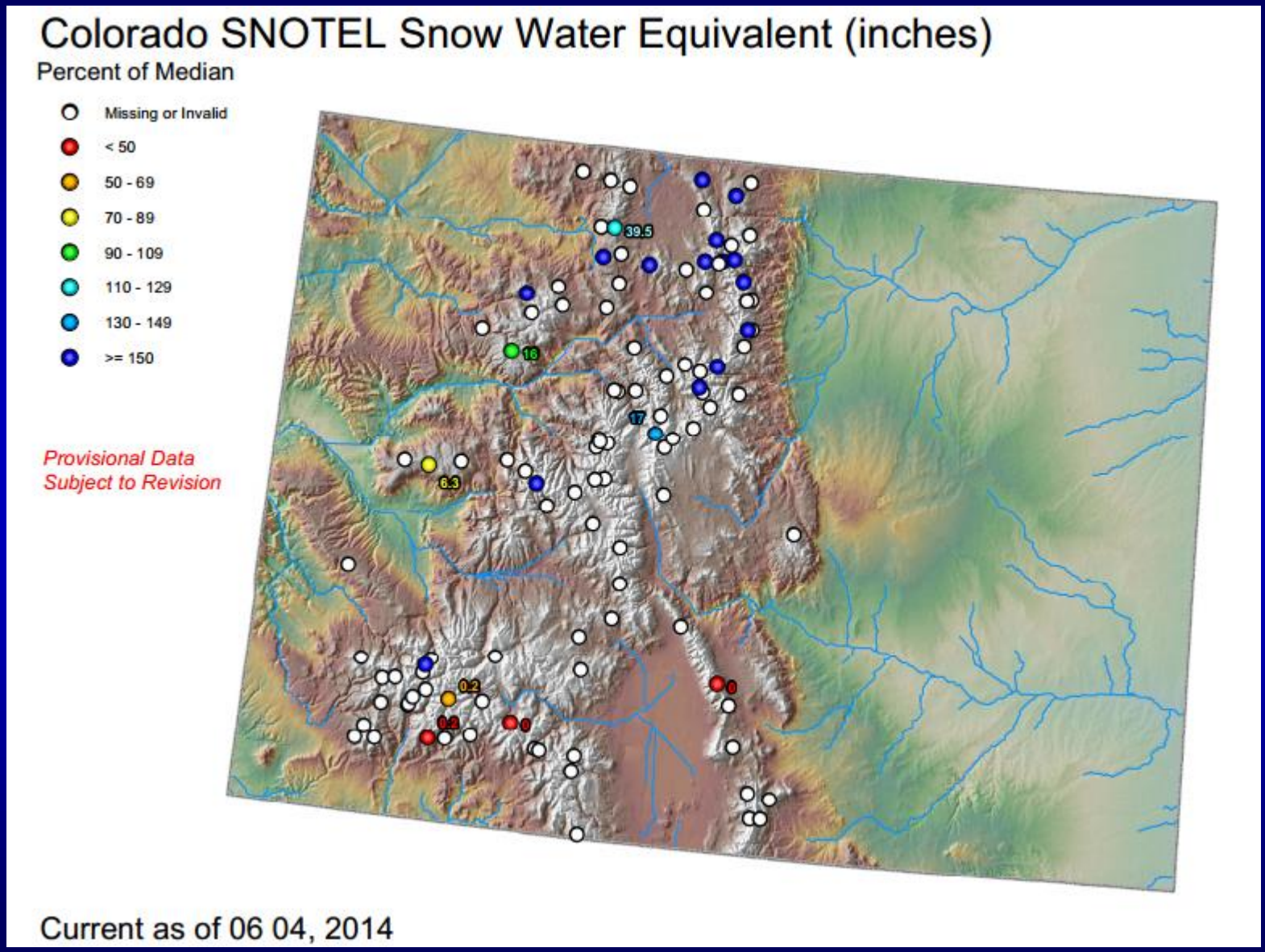
Mountain Snowpack Runoff in North Central Colorado

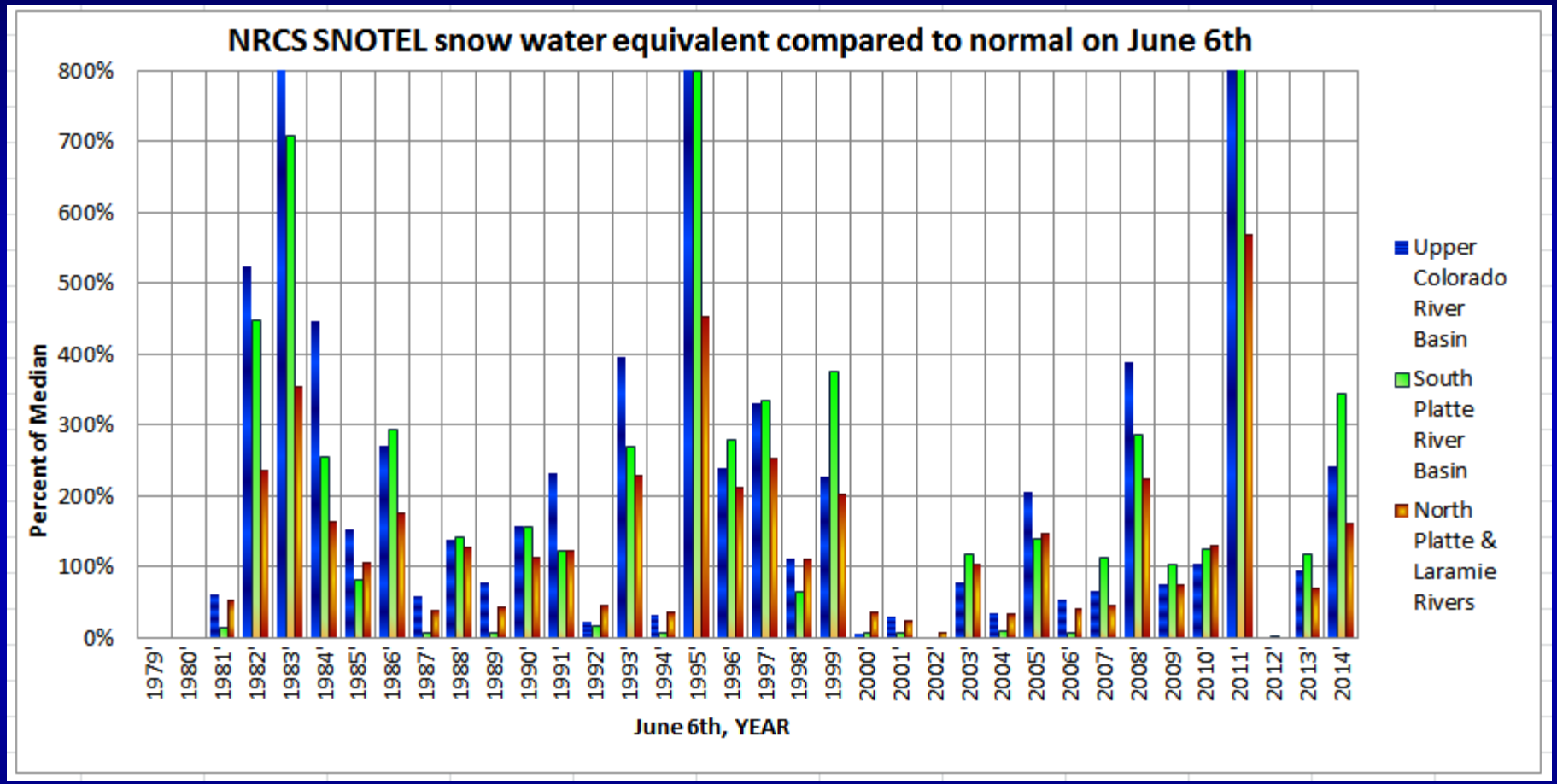
June 6th, 2014

Natural Resources Conservation Service Map:

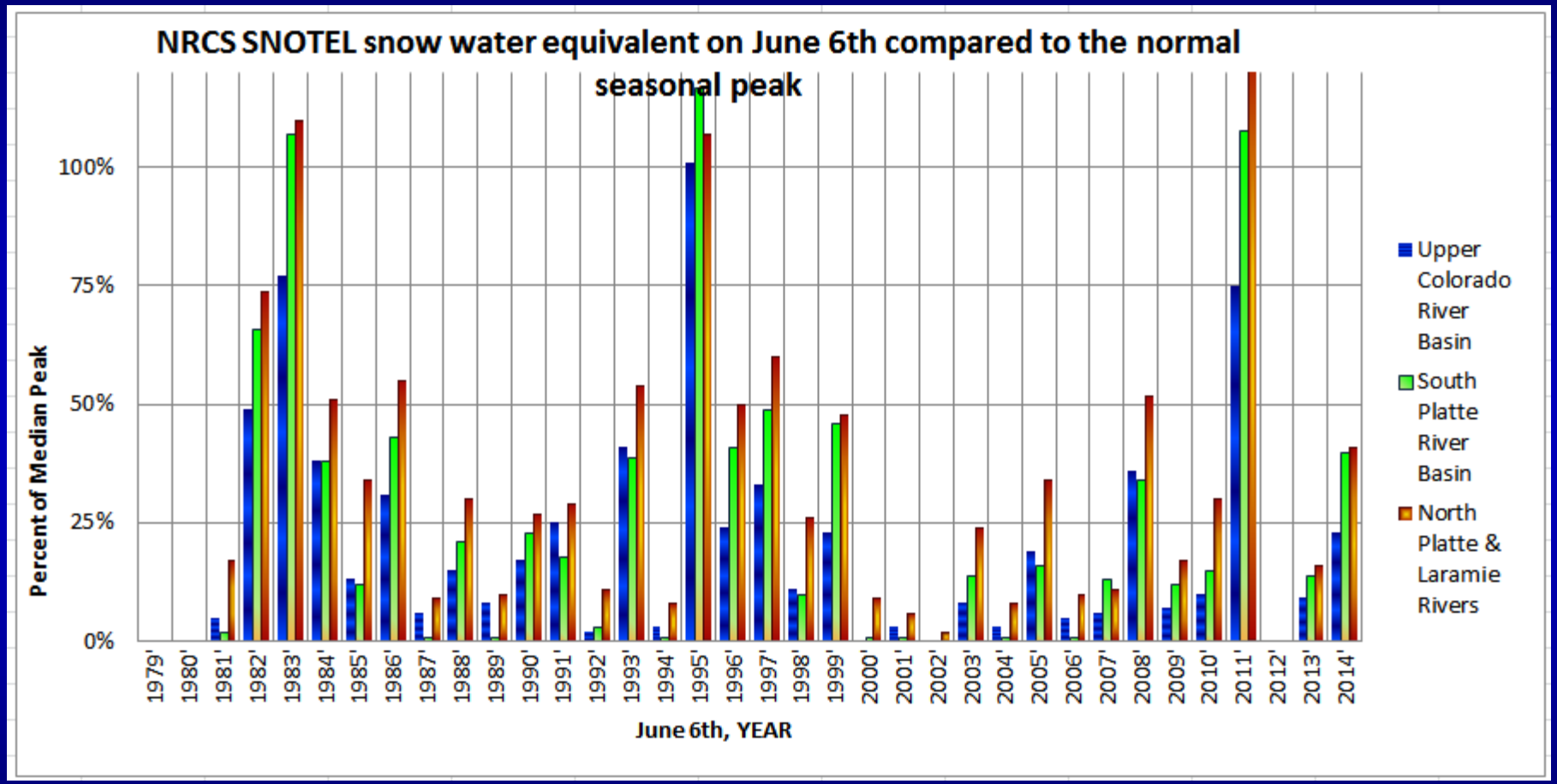


ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CO/Snow/snow/site/daily/co_swe.pdf

The June 6th, 2014 snowpack is still higher than average, but much lower than on June 6th of 2011, 1995, and 1983.



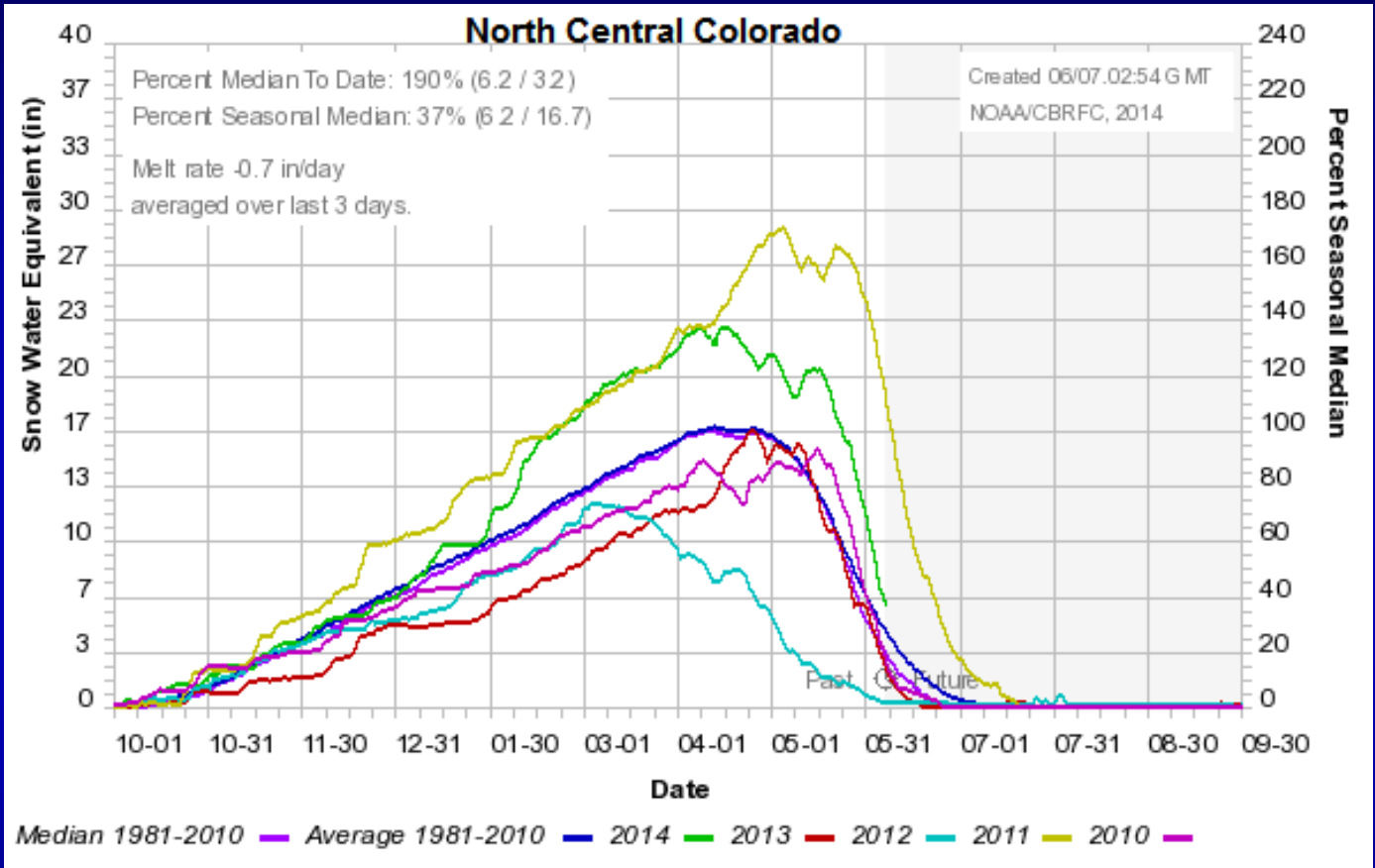
The June 6th, 2014 basin snowpack was only 23% of the normal (or median) peak seasonal snowpack in the upper Colorado River basin west of the Continental Divide and around 40% of the normal peak seasonal snowpack in the North and South Platte Basins east of the Divide.



Although higher than many other years, this is well below the snowpack in 2011 which remained 75% (in the upper Colorado), 108% (in the South Platte), & 130% (in the North Platte) of the normal peak seasonal snowpack on June 6th.

Mountain Snowpack Timeseries Graph through June 6th, 2014

(each line is one of the last 5 years of mountain snowpack)



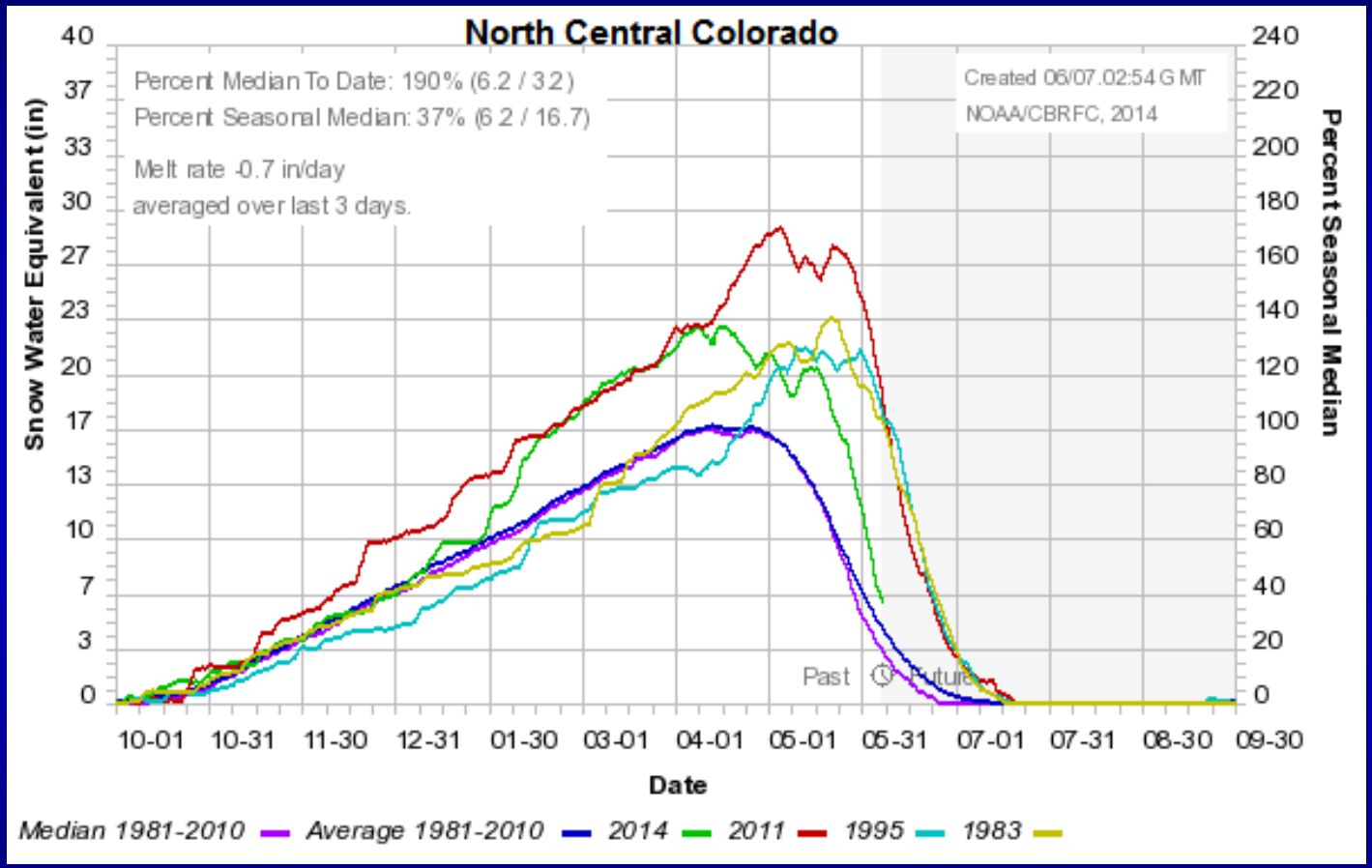
The snowpack on June 6th was only 37% of the normal (median) seasonal peak now and falling rapidly. There was generally less than 7 inches of snow water equivalent remaining in the snowpack. (Just on May 28th it was 87% of the normal seasonal peak).

* SNOTEL data for this graph provided by the NRCS.

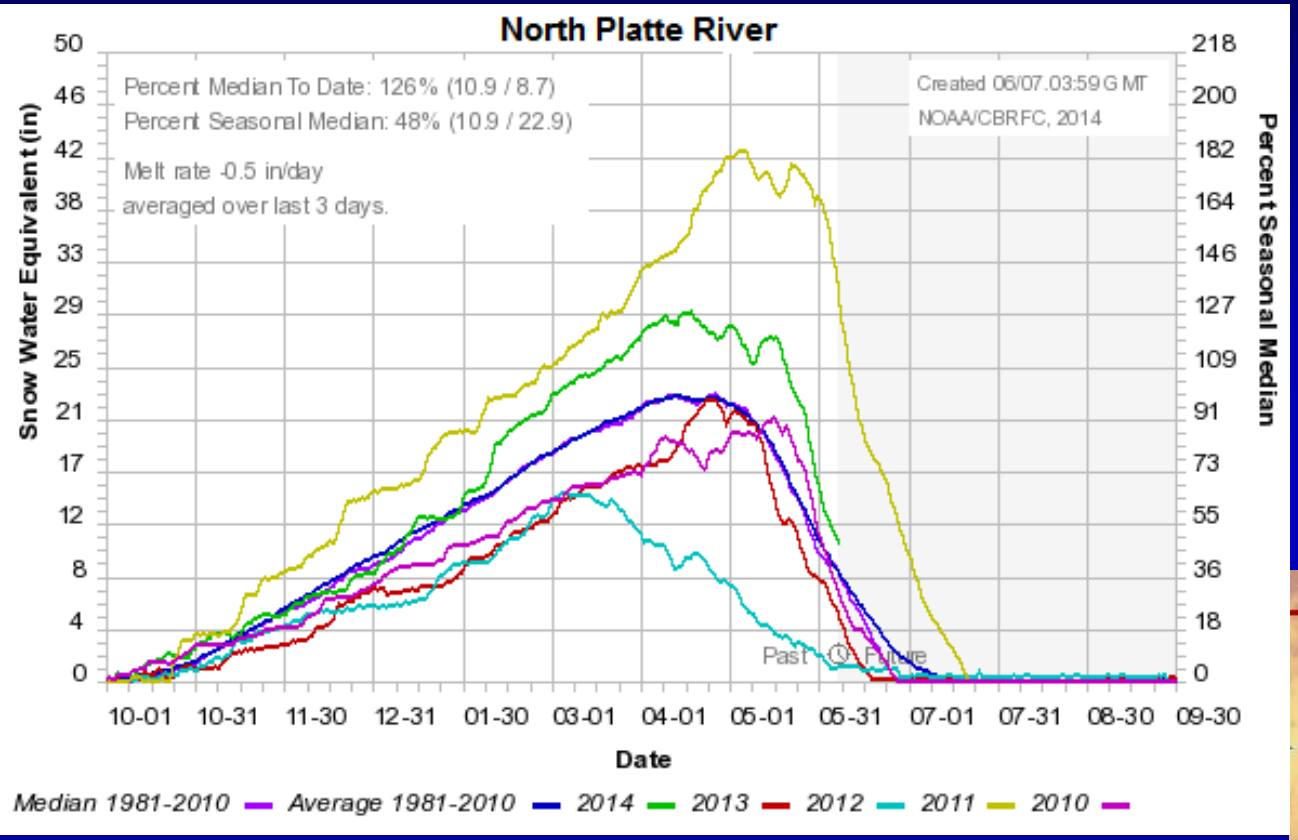
The green line on the time series graph shows the NRCS SNOTEL SWE (snow water equivalent in the snowpack) from October 2013 through early June 2014. The blue/violet lines show the 1981-2010 average/median.

NC CO Mountain Snowpack Timeseries Graph

(2014 compared to years with a high snowpack late in the season.)

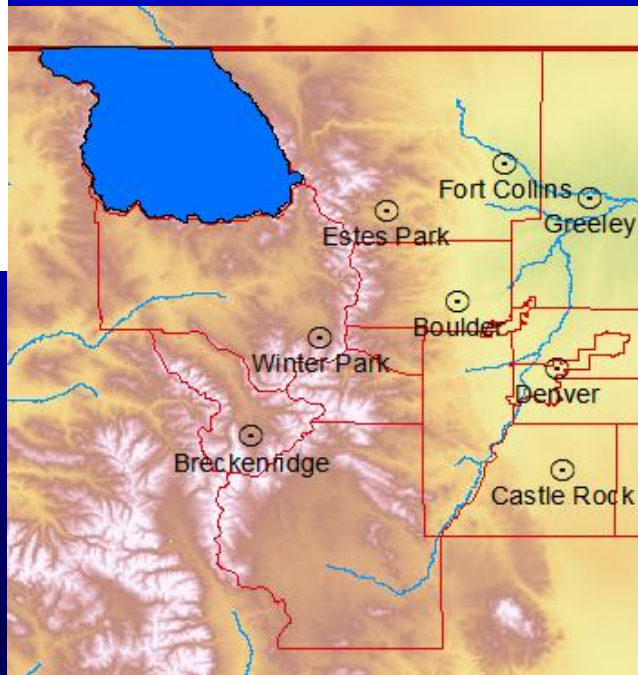


* SNOTEL data for this graph provided by the NRCS.

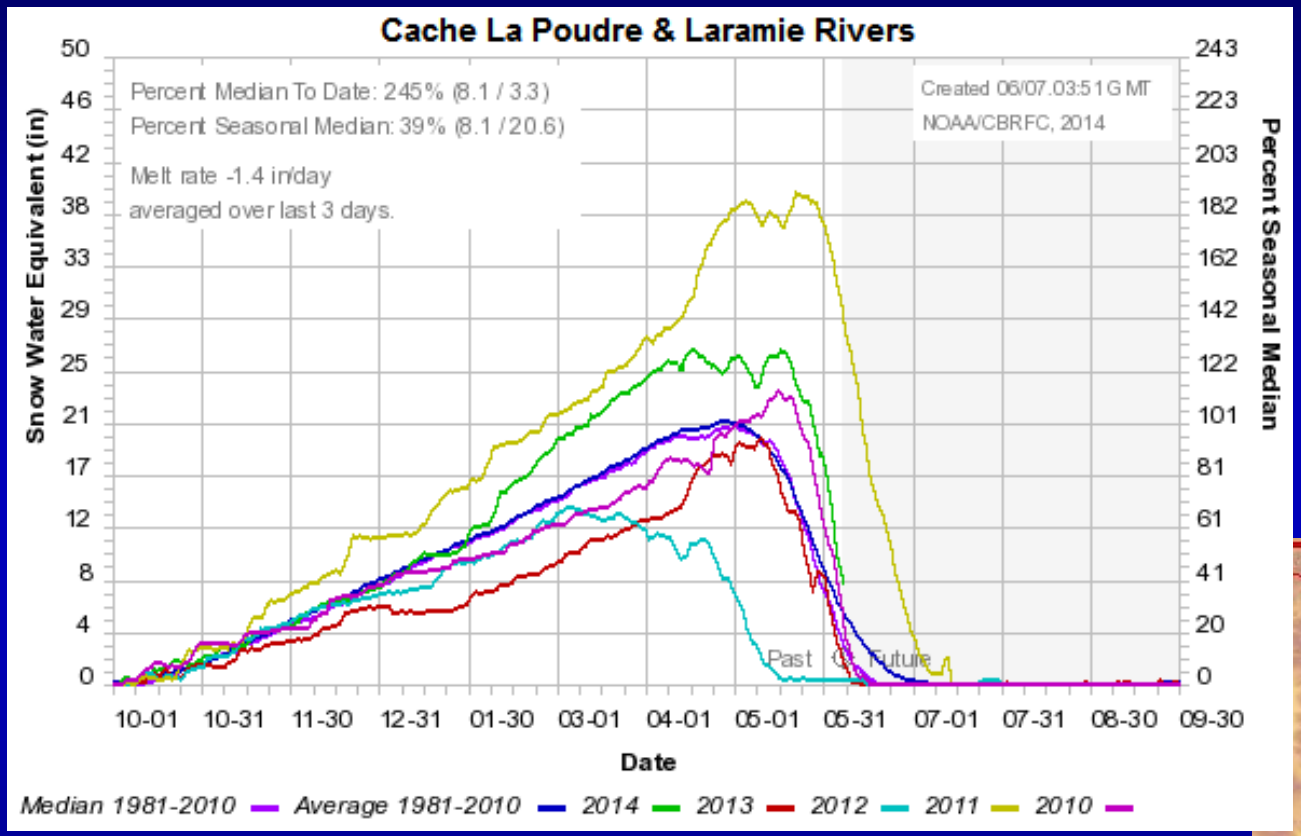


The June 6th snowpack in the headwaters of Jackson County was 48% of the normal seasonal peak (this compares to 90% on May 28th, 2014).

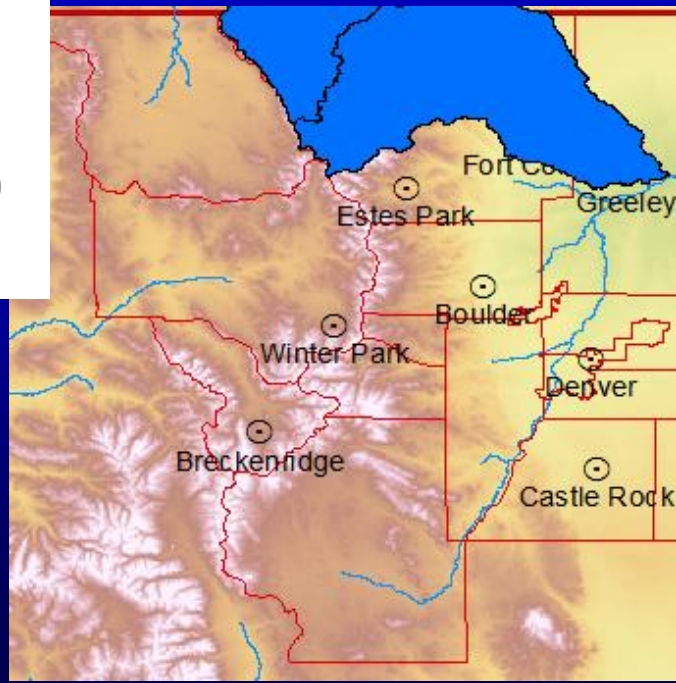
The rivers in Jackson County have receded below bankfull. These rivers are expected to continue slowly receding (due to snowpack runoff alone).



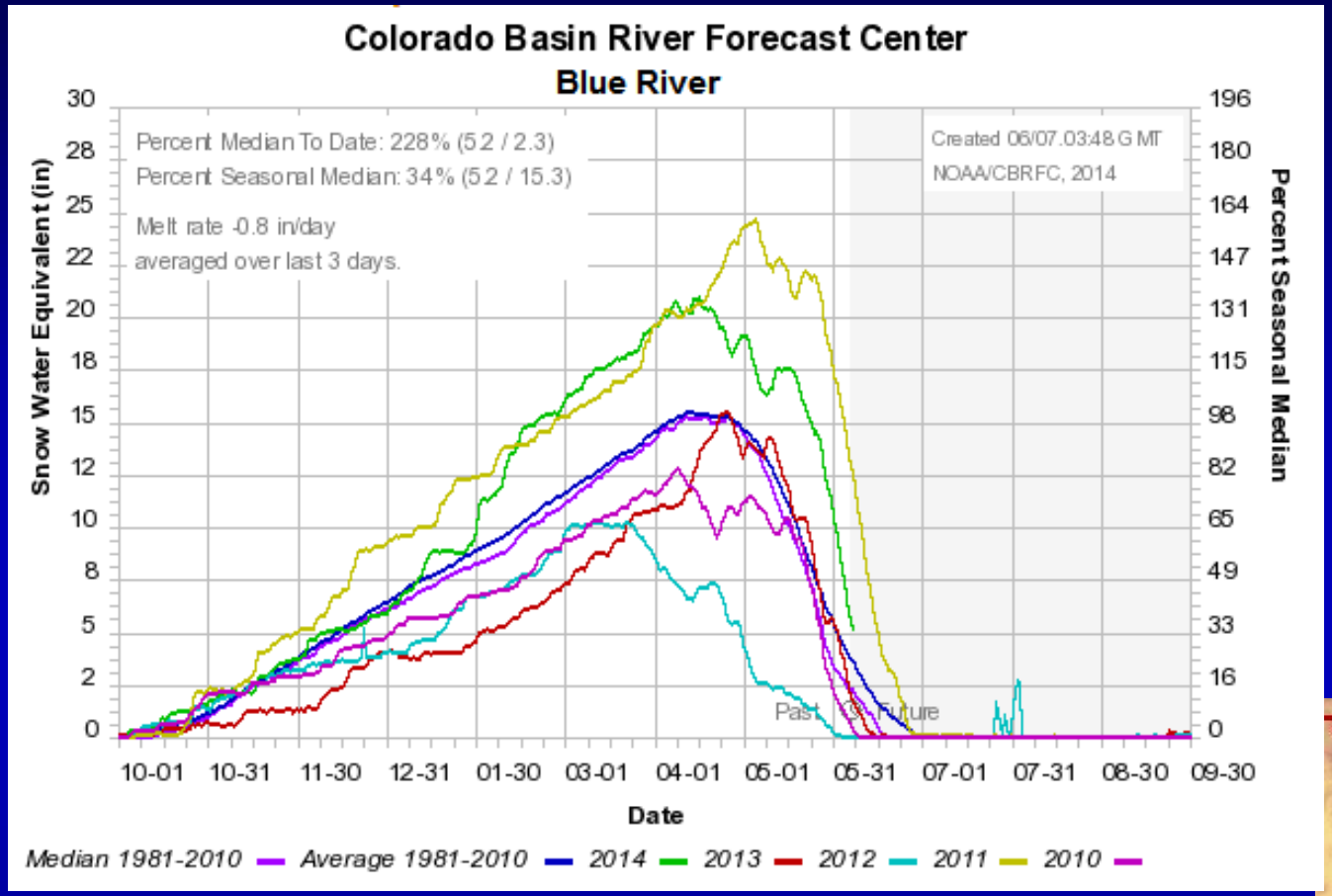
The past 5 years are displayed for sub-basins on the next 5 slides. The basins are ordered by highest percent of seasonal normal peak first.



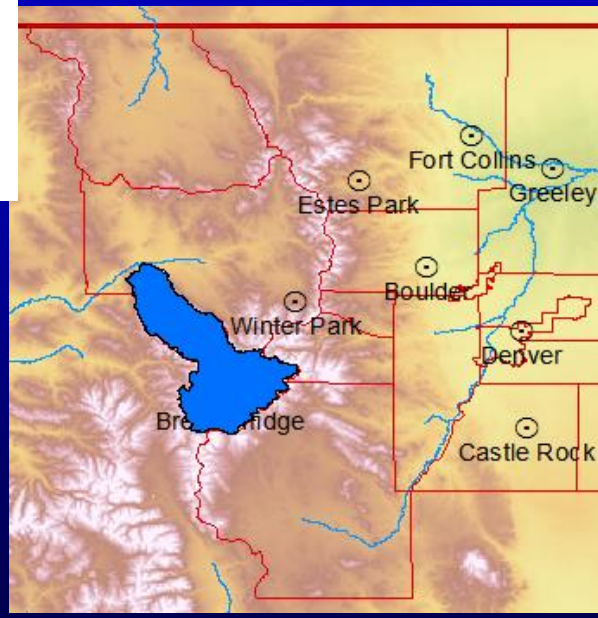
The snowpack on June 6th was only 39% of the normal seasonal peak in the headwaters of rivers in northern Larimer County (this compares to 101% on May 28th).



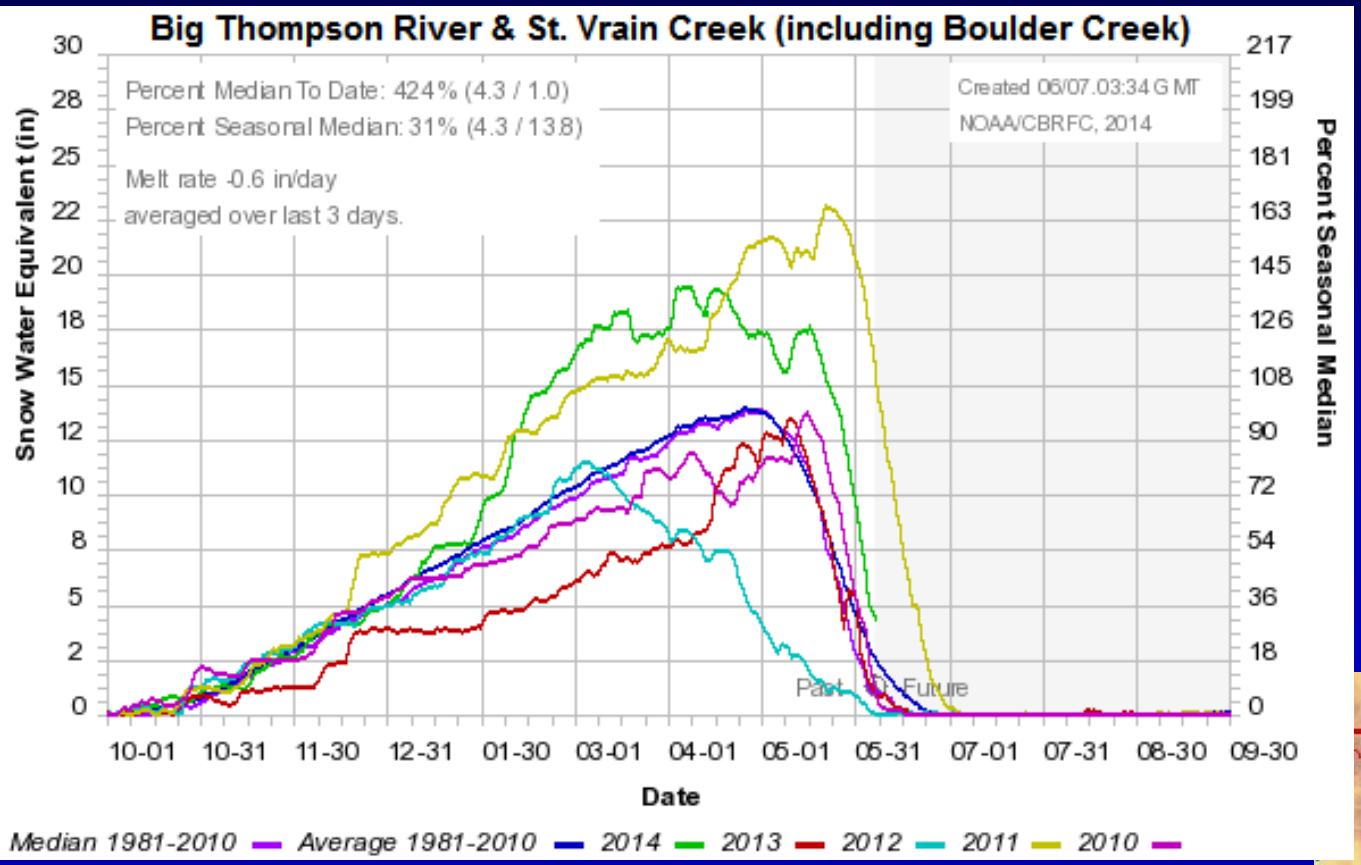
High flows continue on the Cache La Poudre River. The river is forecast to continue to recede very slowly (due to snowpack runoff alone).



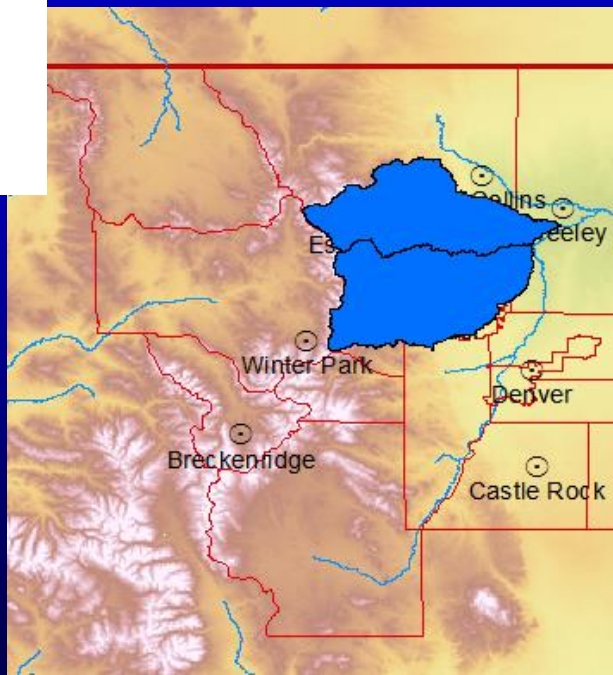
The snowpack on June 6th was only 34% of the normal seasonal peak in the headwaters of the Blue River west of the Continental Divide (this compares to 87% on May 28th).



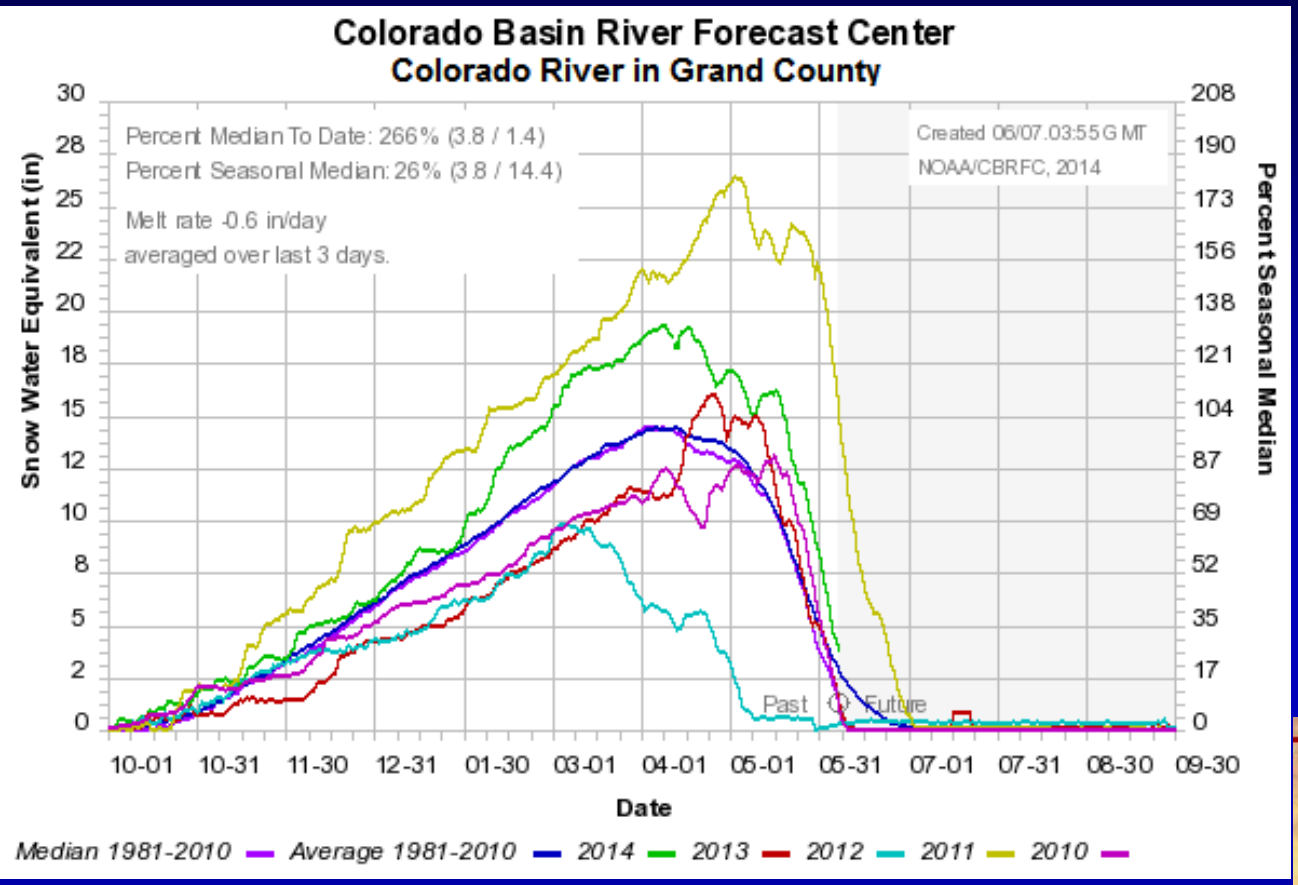
Flows are high on streams in Summit County with localized issues along some streams. Forecasts call for streams to generally remain high. Some streams could rise higher within the next week. Streams are forecast to remain near to below flood stage (due to snowmelt runoff alone.)



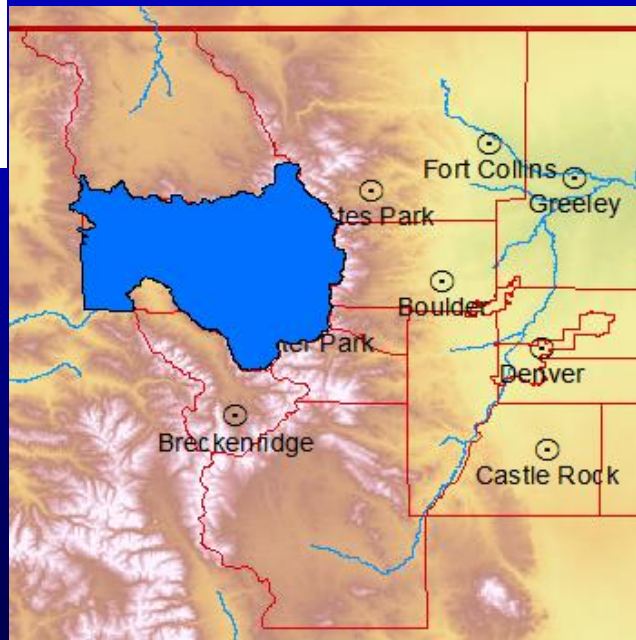
The mountain snowpack is melting rapidly. The snowpack in the headwaters of these drainages on June 6th was only 31% of the normal seasonal peak (this compares to 90% on May 28th).



The streams in Boulder & southern Larimer Counties are forecast to remain well below flood stage and continue slowly receding (due to snowpack runoff alone).



The snowpack on June 6th was only 26% of the normal seasonal peak in the headwaters of the Colorado River in Grand County (this compares to 73% on May 28th).



Flows are high on rivers in Grand County with low lying areas flooded along some streams. Forecasts call for streams to generally remain high. Some rivers could rise higher within the next week. On the other hand, the Colorado River is forecast to continue slowly receding. Rivers are forecast to remain below flood stage (due to snowmelt runoff alone.)

Past 5 years

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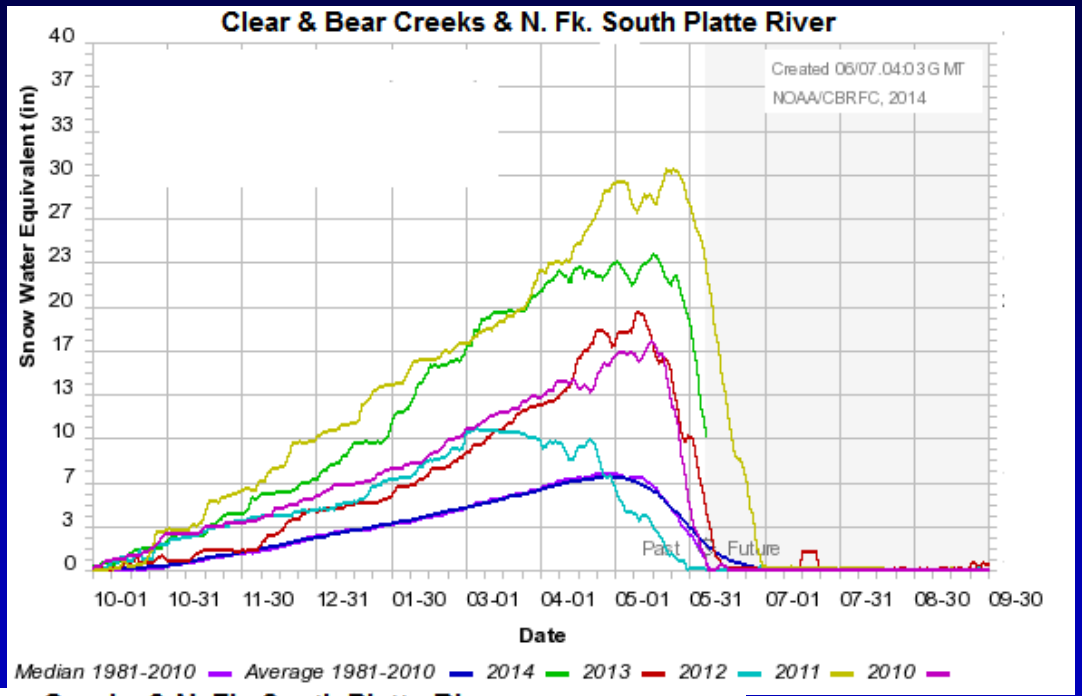
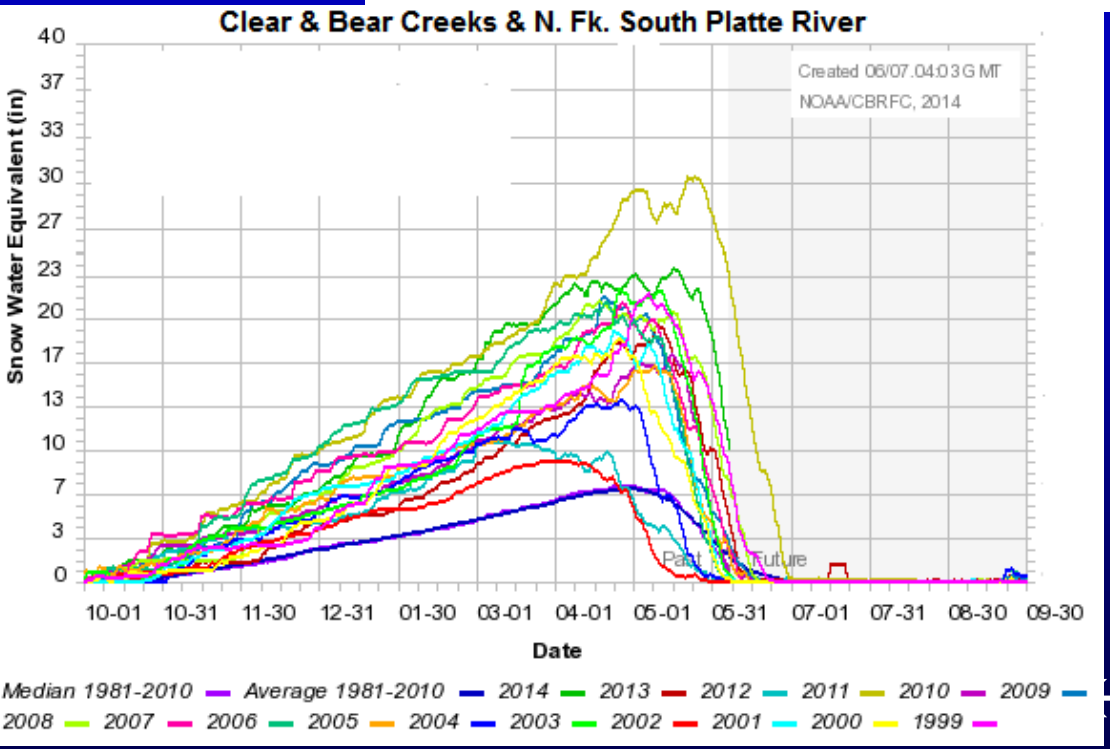
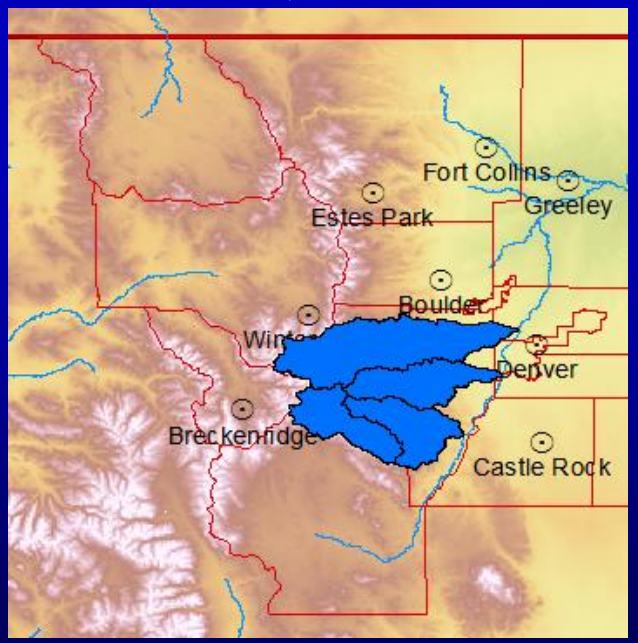


The streams in Clear, Jefferson & extreme NE Park Counties remain below bankfull. These streams are forecast to continue slowly receding (due to snowpack runoff alone).





Past 16 years

- Streamflows have also been running high on the South Platte River in northeast Colorado with minor lowland flooding.

- Mountain streams may have significant debris in them due to the September 2013 floods and/or winter avalanche activity.

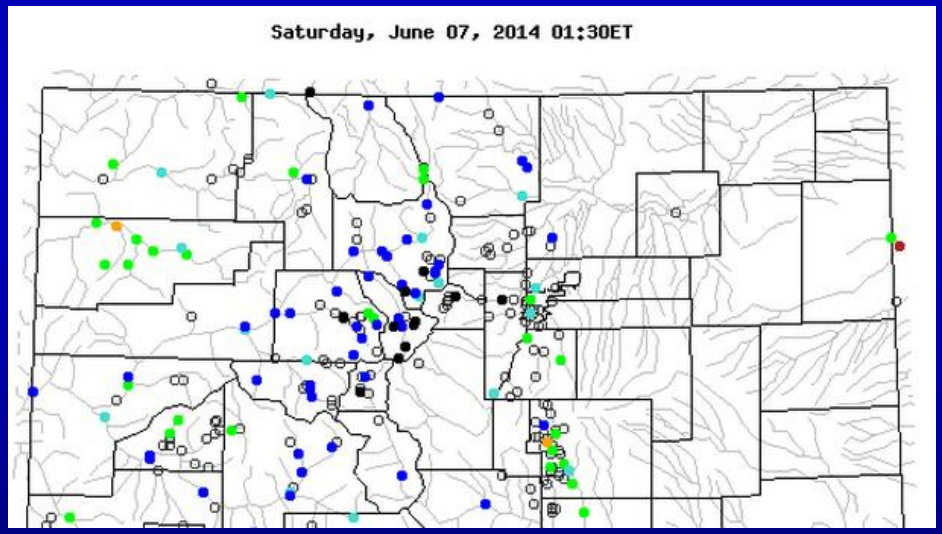
- With many rivers and creeks running high and currents being very fast:

  – Use extreme caution when walking near waterways.
  – Do not let children play near high flowing streams.
  – Avoid flooded areas and unstable river banks.

Stream Observations and Forecasts:

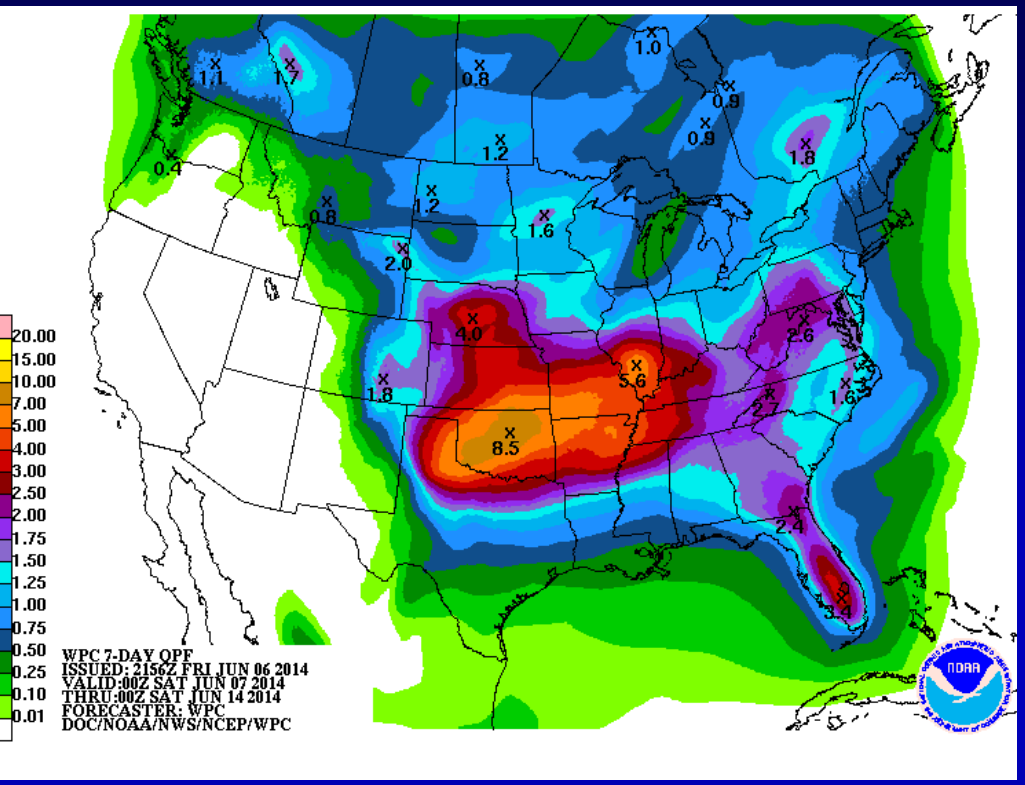
- The NC & NE Colorado NWS AHPS webpage is available at http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=bou. A webpage of NWS current forecast point clickable hydrographs in NC & NE CO is available at http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bou/?n=bou_ahpsmonitor.

- The U.S. Geological Survey Colorado clickable real-time streamflow map is available at: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=co



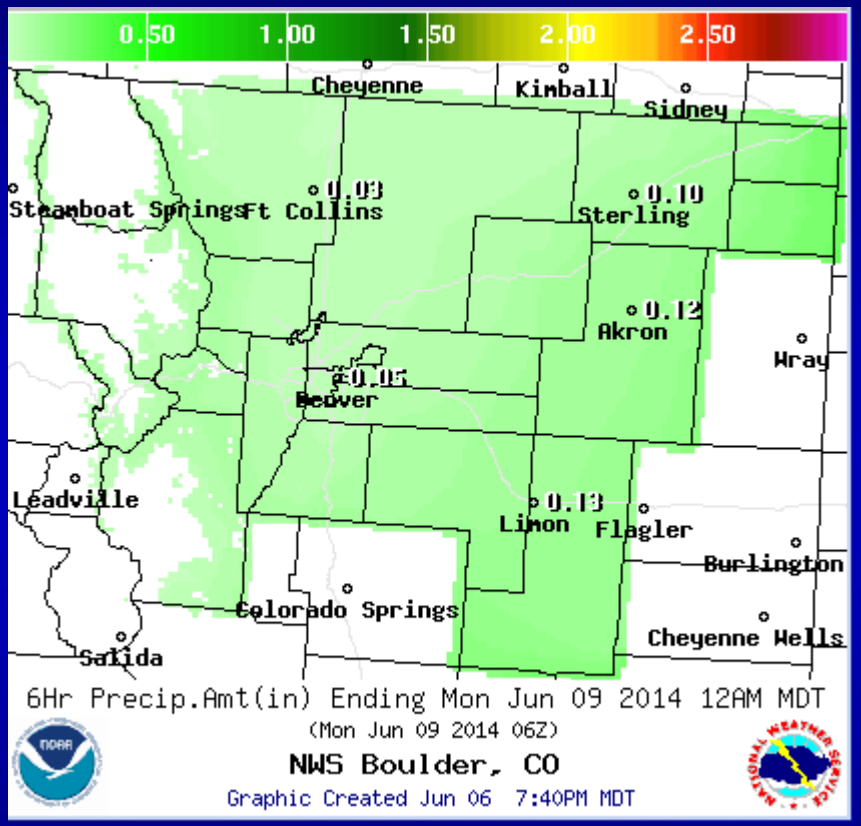
- The Colorado Division of Water Resources surface water data is available at http://www.dwr.state.co.us/SurfaceWater/default.aspx. To go to a basin stream gage table, just click the basin near the top of the webpage.

Precipitation Forecasts:

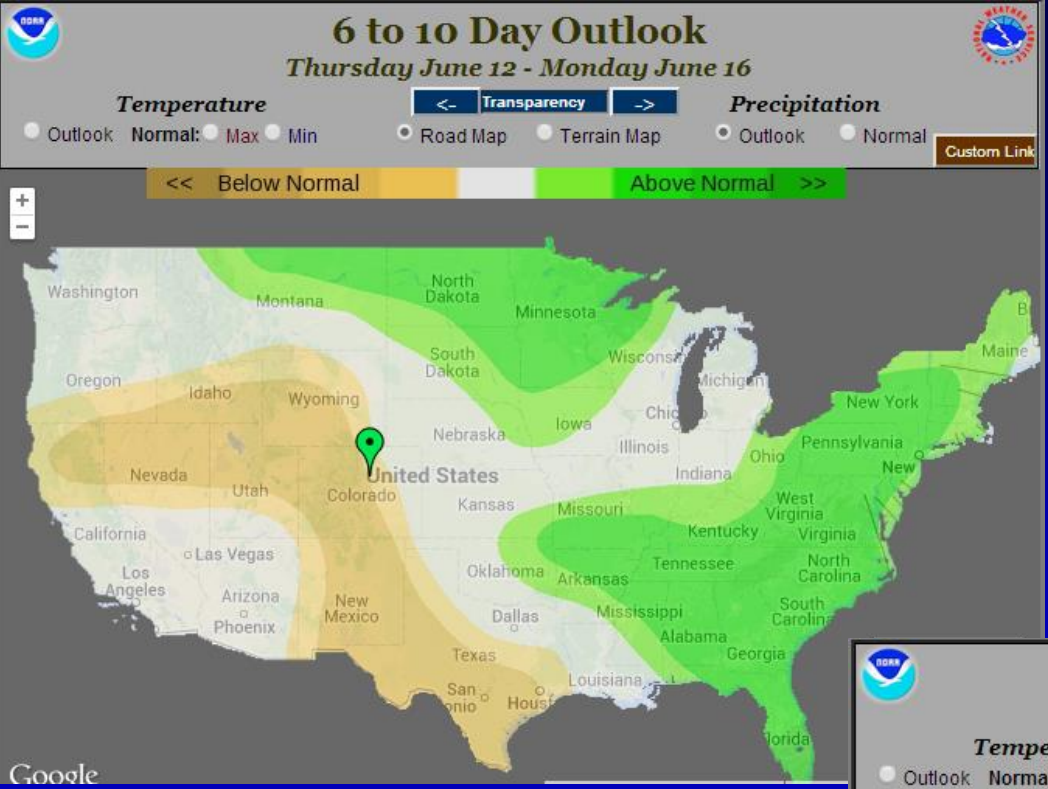


Click the map above to link to 1-7 day NWS U.S. precipitation forecasts.

<- Example of 7 day U.S. precipitation forecast.



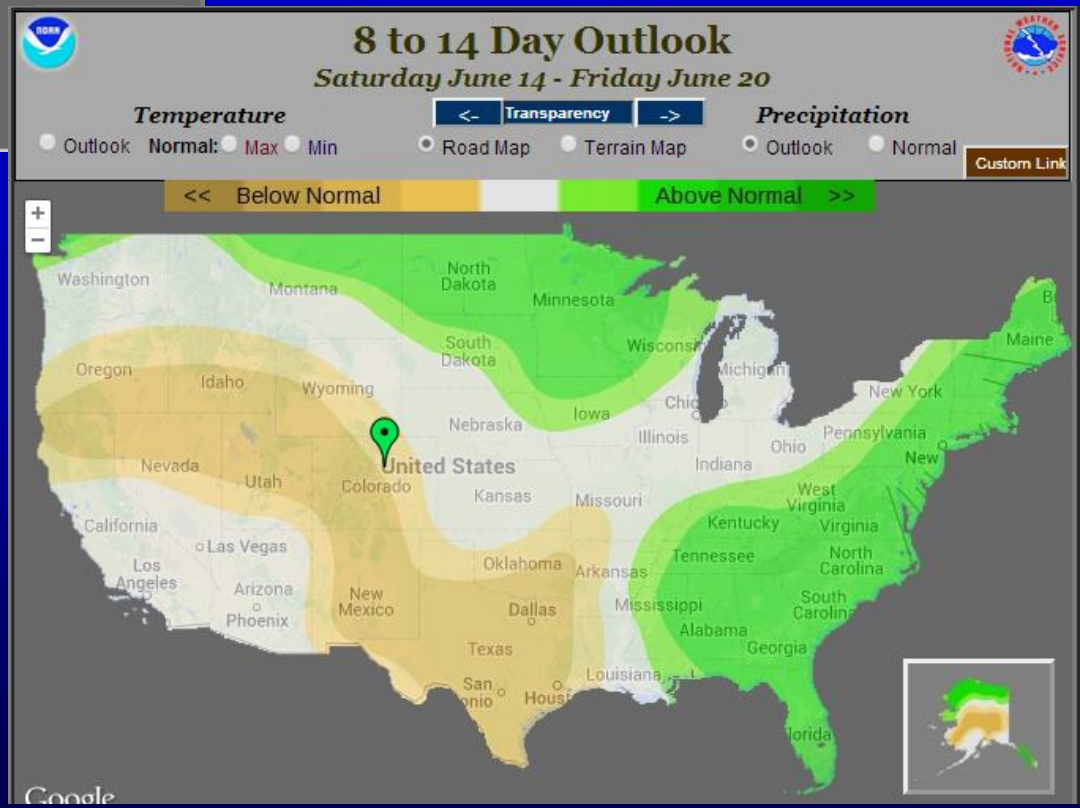
Click the map above to link to the NWS NC & NE Colorado precipitation forecast loop (change forecast element to ‘Amount of Precip’).



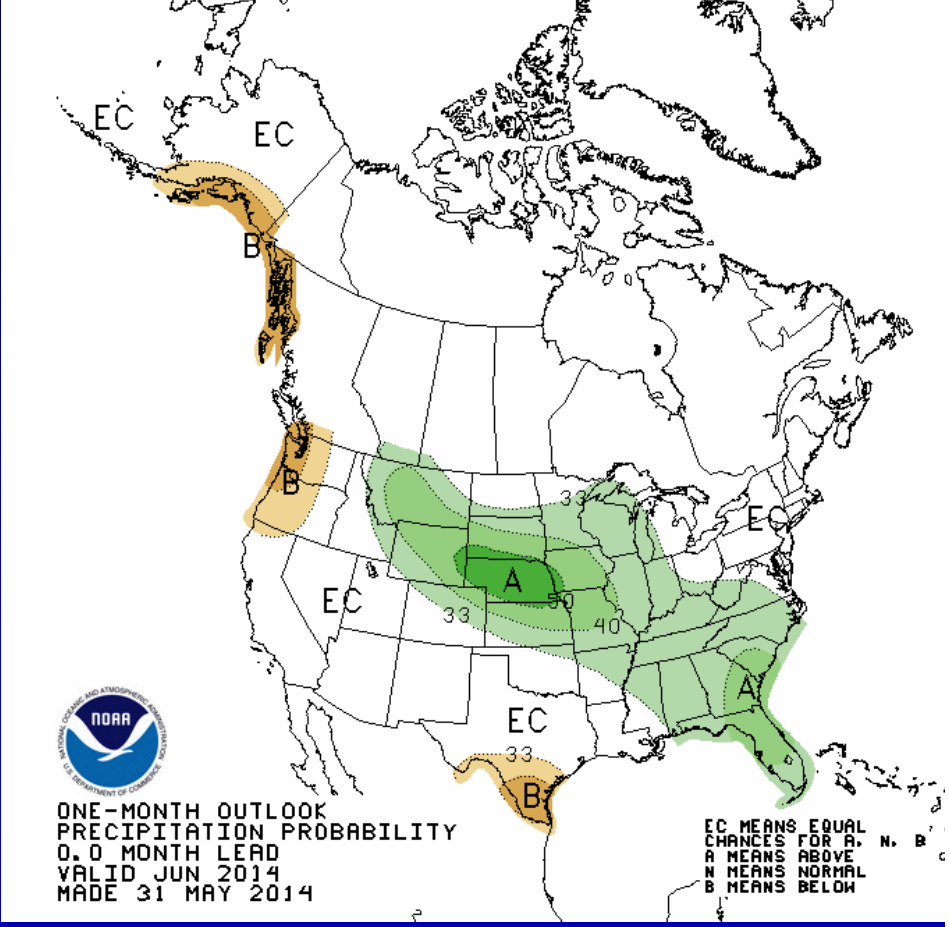
Precipitation & Temperature Outlooks:

Click the map on the top left for the CPC 6 to 10 day outlooks or the map on the bottom right for the 8 to 14 day outlooks.

[Click here for more NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Outlooks]

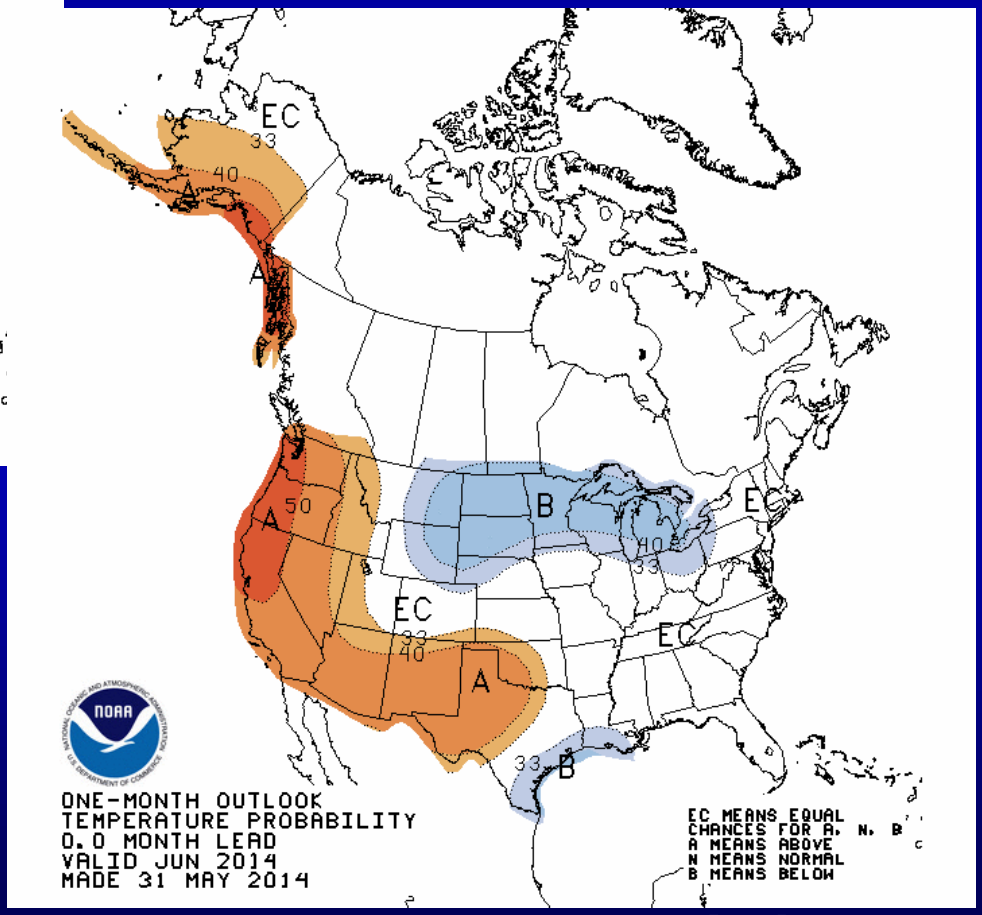


The CPC outlook for June calls for above average precipitation.



June Precipitation Outlook

[Click here for more NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Outlooks]



June Temperature Outlook